

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Prolonged-release compositions containing A prolonged-release composition comprising:~~

(a) ~~torasemide as active ingredient and a m3-5, atrix-forming polymer and in an amount of about 0.5 mg to about 20 mg and in crystalline form;~~

(b) ~~lactose in a proportion of about 18% to about 56.4% in relation to the total weight of the composition; and~~

(c) ~~guar gum in a proportion of about 1% to about 40% in relation to the total weight of the composition.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The prolonged-release composition~~ Prolonged-release compositions according to claim 1, wherein these compositions are tablets ~~the composition is a tablet for oral administration.~~

3. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Prolonged-release compositions~~ The prolonged-release composition according to claim 1, wherein torasemide is present in a proportion from 0.5 to 20% ~~in an amount of about 5 mg to about 20 mg.~~

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Prolonged-release compositions~~ The prolonged-release composition according to claim 7, wherein torasemide is present in a proportion from about 4% to about 10%.

9. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Prolonged-release compositions~~ The prolonged-release composition according to claim 1, comprising in addition one or more excipients selected from the group consisting of diluents, binders, disintegrants, and lubricants.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The prolonged-release composition~~ Prolonged-release compositions according to claim 11, wherein, the diluents are selected from the group consisting of lactose, celluloses, mannitol, calcium phosphate, and mixtures thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The prolonged-release composition~~ Prolonged-release compositions according to claim 11, wherein, the binders are selected from the group consisting of fumed silica, starch, and mixtures thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The prolonged-release composition~~ Prolonged-release compositions according to claim 11, wherein, the disintegrants are selected from the group consisting of fumed silica, starch, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The prolonged-release composition~~ Prolonged-release compositions according to claim 11, wherein, the lubricants are selected from the group consisting of magnesium stearate, talc, and mixtures thereof.

16. (NEW) The prolonged-release composition according to claim 1, wherein lactose is in a proportion of about 53.1% to about 54% in relation to the total weight of the composition.

17. (NEW) The prolonged-release composition according to claim 1, wherein guar gum is in a proportion of about 7.4% to about 7.5% in relation to the amount by weight of lactose.

18. (NEW) The prolonged-release composition according to claim 1, wherein guar gum is in a proportion of about 4% in relation to the total weight of the composition.

19. (NEW) A prolonged release composition according to claim 1, further comprising starch.

20. (NEW) A method of stabilizing plasma levels of torasemide comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the composition according to claim 1.

21. (NEW) A method of maintaining diuresis over a 12 to 24 hour period comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the composition according to claim 1.

22. (NEW) The method according to claim 20, wherein the composition is administered orally.

23. (NEW) The method according to claim 21, wherein the composition is administered orally.